

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05600 270040Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 MCT-01 /060 W  
-----088539 270238Z /64

R 261844Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1160  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USEEC AND AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: RETURNED BASQUE EXILES HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE, DROP OUT  
OF SIGHT

REF: MADRID 5538

1. THE 10 ETA (BASQUE TERRORIST) EXILES WHO RETURNED  
FURTIVELY TO SPAIN LAST WEEK FOLLOWED UP THEIR APPEARANCE  
AT A JULY 21 POLITICAL RALLY (REFTEL) WITH A "CLANDESTINE"  
JULY 22 BILBAO PRESS CONFERENCE HELD UNDER EXTREMELY  
TIGHT SECURITY. ACCOMPANIED BY OLD BASQUE NATIONALIST  
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WARHORSE TELESFORO MONZON. THE TEN DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN  
SINCE, ALTHOUGH IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY HAVE NOT LEFT  
SPAIN AND MAY TURN UP AT RADICAL BASQUE NATIONALIST  
RALLIES CONNECTED WITH THE CONTINUING "MARCH FOR LIBERTY."

2. THE STATEMENTS OF THE 10 AT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE

PRODUCED NO SURPRISES, AS THEY AVERRED THEY HAD CONSENTED TO EXILE WITH THE FULL INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE BASQUE PROVINCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONLY SOME OF THE 10 REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED THE CONTINUATION OF ETA'S "ARMED STRUGGLE," BUT ALL IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES WITH ONE OR ANOTHER RADICAL BASQUE NATIONALIST POLITICAL OPTION.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THIS CASE, INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE GOVT WOULD TAKE "APPROPRIATE MEASURES," WITHOUT DEFINING EXACTLY WHAT THESE MEASURES WOULD BE. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE ORDER IS OUT FOR THE ARREST OF THE 10, BUT AMCONSUL BILBAO ADVISES THAT THE POLICE DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE LEAPED TO THE TASK. THERE ALSO ARE RUMORS THAT THE GOVT IS "NEGOTIATING" WITH THE 10 THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES WITH A VIEW TO "REGULARIZING" THEIR STATUS IN THE COUNTRY.

4. THE EXILES' RETURN AND APPARENTLY CONTINUING PRESENCE OBVIOUSLY ARE EMBARRASSING TO THE GOVT, WHICH FINDS IT POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE TO DEAL SUMMARILY WITH THE 10 IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE OPENLY VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THEIR VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTED EXPLUSION. EVEN SO, THERE HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY LITTLE PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE GOVT'S POSTURE THUS FAR, AS NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT TO CALL ON THE GOVT TO TAKE PRECIPITOUS ACTION WHICH MIGHT TURN THE CLOCK BACK IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE 10 BASQUES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEMSELVES DO NOT WANT TO PUSH THE GOVT TOO HARD. STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXILES, PRESS CONFERENCES, BASQUES, MINORITIES, TERRORISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MADRID05600  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 52eb0d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MADRID 5538  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1747853  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RETURNED BASQUE EXILES HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE, DROP OUT OF SIGHT  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009